

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 231807Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5880
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 05870

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT EG CY
SUBJECT: EGYPT CONDEMNS PALESTINIANS

REF: CAIRO 5778 (NOTAL)

1. SADAT SPEECH. IN COURSE OF ADDRESS TO COMMANDOS
FOLLOWING FUNERAL FOR EGYPTIANS KILLED IN LARNACA RAID,
SADAT STRONGLY CONDEMNED "PALESTINIANS." SAID THAT,
MORE THAN OTHER ARABS, PALESTINIANS MUST KNOW THAT EGYPT
WILL REPLY TEN-FOLD TO ANY ATTACK. ANY CRIME AGAINST
EGYPT WILL NOT GO UNPUNISHED. "TWO HIRED CRIMINALS"
WHO KILLED SIBAI MUST BE EXTRADITED. EGYPT DEFENDING
PALESTINIAN CAUSE EVERYWHERE; BUT PALESTINIANS HIRING
THEMSELVES OUT AS TERRORISTS IN CABARETS AND
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NIGHTCLUBS. SADAT CONCLUDED EGYPT WILL "TREAD -
DOWN THE DWARFS", WHATEVER PRICE MAY BE. EGYPT WILL
"NEVER ALLOW ITS DESTINY BE PLACED IN HANDS OF "IDIOTS,
NINCOMPOOPS OR INSANE."

2. PLO PARTICIPATION IN LARNACA ATTACK. ALL EGYPTIAN
PAPERS, FEB 23, REPRINTED WASHINGTON POST ACCOUNT PLO

PARTICIPATION IN LARNACA ATTACK ON EGYPTIAN TROOPS.
PAPERS RIDICULED PLO DENIAL SINCE ORGANIZATION, EARLIER,
HAD DENIED PRESENCE OF ANY PALESTINIAN FORCES IN CYPRUS--
WHILE NOW ADMITTING THEY WERE ON ISLAND, JUST NOT INVOLVED.

3. FUNERAL. CROWDS AT COMMANDOS' FUNERAL CHANTED LOUDLY
AGAINST BOTH KYPRIANOUS AND ARAFAT. ONE SLOGAN WAS
"THERE IS NO GOD BUT ALLAH AND PALESTINIANS ARE HIS
ENEMY." TV COVERAGE FOCUSED ON SEGMENT OF THRONG ATTACK-
ING "MAD REJECTIONISTS." DEMONSTRATORS IMPLIED REJECTION-
IST STATES AND DLO FREE FIGHT ISRAEL ANY TIME THEY DESIRE
BUT LACK INTESTINAL FORTITUDE DO SAME.

4. COMMENT: INCREASINGLY, EGYPTIANS COMING TO EQUATE
ALL PALESTINIANS WITH FORMER "REJECTIONISTS." DESPITE
ARAFAT'S EFFORTS KEEP LINES OUT TO EGYPT, THESE BECOMING
VERY TENUOUS INDEED. ONE EFFECT OF CYPRUS INCIDENTS
LIKELY BE THAT EGYPT WILL BE WILLING PAY EVEN LESS
ATTENTION TO PLO VIEWS ON PEACE PROCESS THAN HITHERTO.
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